

IDENTIFICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF A GENE WHICH PROTECTS
CELLS FROM PROGRAMMED CELL DEATH AND USES THEREFOR

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 The present invention relates to genes, referred to herein as cell death-
protective genes, which protect cells against programmed cell death by antagonizing the
activities of genes which cause cell death. As described herein, a cell death-protective
gene from the nematode Caenorhabditis elegans, called ced-9 has been identified,
sequenced, and characterized. In addition, mutations which inactivate the ced-9 gene are
also described.